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A

M E T H O D
O F
BREAKING HORSES,

AND TEACHING
SOLDIERS TO RIDE,

Designed for the Use of the

A R M Y,

BY

HENRY EARL OF PEMBROKE.

----- Equitem docuere sub armis
Insultare solo, et gressus glomerare superbos. VIRG.
Vis consilii expers mole sua ruit. HOR.

THE SECOND EDITION,

Revised, and corrected, with Additions.

L O N D O N :

Printed by J. HUGHS, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields.

M DCC LXII.

TO THE
METHUEN
KILN
BURNING HORSES

AND TEACHING



W
HEN the first regiment
of light dragoons
was under the command of
General George A. B. Smith
we had independent
regiments of dragoons
and so forth in
the year 1861.

TO THE

K I N G.

S I R,

WHEN the first regiment
of light dragoons was
raised under the command of my
friend general GEORGE AUGUSTUS
ELIOTT, we had frequent occa-
sions to lament together the
wretched system of HORSEMAN-
SHIP, that at present prevails in
A 2 the

DEDICATION.

the A R M Y : A system, disgraceful in itself, and productive in its consequences of the most fatal evils : For troops in their own nature most excellent and brave, have been frequently rendered inferior to less powerful ones, both in men and horses, for want of proper instructions and intelligence in this Art. These serious considerations (for indeed they are very much so,) induced me to write down and make public the following Lessons, calculated for the use of the Cavalry :
They

DEDICATION.

They are such as I have always practised myself; and taught both in the above-mentioned regiment and elsewhere, with constant success. Incited by these reasons, I thus presume to lay them at Your MAJESTY's feet; and am the more encouraged to it from the honour You have often done me of talking to me upon HORSEMANSHIP; as also from this confidence, that if what I here recommend, be deemed in any wise likely to be useful, (as I flatter myself, it may, if candidly examined,

DEDICATION.

examined, and judiciously practised,) it will not fail of receiving Your MAJESTY's Royal Approbation and Support. I am,

SIR,

YOUR MAJESTY's

MOST DUTIFUL SUBJECT

AND DEVOTED SERVANT,

WHITEHALL,

Feb. 15, 1761.

PEMBROKE.

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METHOD

A
M E T H O D
O F
BREAKING HORSES,
AND
Teaching SOLDIERS to Ride, &c.

CHAP. I.

The method of preparing horses to be mounted, with the circumstances relative to it.

THOUGH all horses for the service are generally bought at an age, when they have already been backed, I would have them begun and prepared for the rider with the same care,

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gentle-

gentleness and caution, as if they had never been handled or backed, in order to prevent accidents, which might else arise from skittishness or other causes : and as it is proper, that they should be taught the figure of the ground they are to go upon, when they are at first mounted, (which probably may be by no very able horsemen, or perhaps by quite raw recruits,) they should be previously trotted in a *longe* on circles, without any one upon them.

The manner of doing this is as follows : Put an easy *cavesson* upon the horse's nose, and make him go forwards round you, standing quiet and holding the *longe* ; and let another man, if you find it necessary, follow him with a whip : All this must be done very gently, and
but

BREAKING HORSES, &c. 3

but a little at a time ; for more horses are spoilt by over-much work, than by any other treatment whatever ; and that by very contrary effects, for sometimes it drives them into vice, madness and despair, and often it stupifies them and totally dispirits them.

The first obedience required in a horse is going forwards : 'Till he performs this duty freely, never even think of making him rein back, which would inevitably render him restive : As soon as he goes forwards readily, stop and caress him. You must remember in this, and likewise in every other exercise, to use him to go equally well, to the right and left ; and when he obeys, caress him and dismiss him immediately. If a horse, that is very young, takes fright and stands

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still,

still, lead on another horse before him, which probably will induce him instantly to follow. Put a snaffle in his mouth; and when he goes freely, saddle him, girding him at first very loose. Let the cord, which you hold, be long and loose; but not so much so, as to endanger the horse's entangling his legs in it. It must be observed, that small circles, in the beginning, would constrain the horse too much, and put him upon defending himself. No bend must be required at first: never suffer him to gallop false; but whenever he attempt it, stop him without delay, and then set him off afresh. If he gallops of his own accord, and true, permit him to continue it; but if he does it not voluntarily, do not demand it of him at first. Should he fly and jump, shake the cord gently upon his

his nose without jerking it, and he will fall into his trot again. If he stands still, plunges or rears, let the man, who holds the whip, make a noise with it; but never touch him, till it be absolutely necessary to make him go on. When you change hands, stop and caress him, and entice him by fair means to come up to you: For by presenting yourself, as some do, on a sudden before horses, and frightening them to the other side, you run a great risk of giving them a shyness. If he keeps his head too low, shake the *cavesson* to make him raise it: And in whatever the horse does, whether he walks, trots, or gallops, let it be a constant rule, that the motion be determined and really such as is intended, without the least shuffling, pacing, or any other irregular gait.

C H A P. II.

The method of placing the men and rendering them firm on horseback, with some occasional instructions for them and the horses.

TIS necessary that the greatest attention, and the same gentleness, that is used in teaching the horses, be observed likewise in teaching the men, especially at the beginning. Every method and art must be practised to create and preserve, both in man and horse, all possible feeling and sensibility, contrary to the usage of most riding masters, who seem industriously to labour at abolishing these principles both in one and the other. As so many essential

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essential points depend upon the manner, in which a man is at first placed on horseback, it ought to be considered, and attended to with the strictest care and exactness.

The absurdity of putting a man (who perhaps has never before been upon a horse; or if he has, 'tis probably so much the worse,) on a rough trotting horse, on which he is obliged (supposing the horse is insensible enough to suffer it; and if he be not, the man runs a great risk of breaking his neck,) to stick with all the force of his arms and legs, is too obvious to need mentioning. This rough work, all at once, is plainly as detrimental at first, as it is excellent afterwards in proper time. No man can be either well, or firmly

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seated on horseback, unless he be master of the ballance of his body, quite unconstrained, with a full possession of himself, and at his ease; none of which requisites can he enjoy, if his attention be otherwise engaged; as it must wholly be in a raw, unsuppled, and unprepared lad, who is put at once upon a rough horse: In such a distressful state he is forced to keep himself on at any rate, by holding to the bridle, (at the expence of the sensibility both of his own hand, and the horse's mouth,) and by clinging with his legs, in danger of his life, and to the certain depravation of a right feeling in the horse;---a thing absolutely necessary to be kept delicate, for the forming properly both of man and horse; not to mention the horrid appearance of such a figure,

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rendered totally incapable of use and action.

The first time a man is put on horse-back, it ought to be upon a very gentle one. He never should be made to trot, till he is quite easy in the walk; nor gallop, till he is able to trot properly. The same must be observed in regard to horses: they should never be made to trot, till they are obedient, and their mouths are well formed on a walk; nor be made to gallop, till the same be effected on a trot. When he is arrived at such a degree of firmness in his seat, the more he trots, (which no man whatever should ever leave off,) and the more he rides rough horses, the better. This is not only the best method, (I may say, the only right

right one,) but also the easiest and the shortest : by it, a man is soon made sufficiently an horseman for a soldier ; but by the other detestable methods, that are commonly used, a man, instead of improving, contracts all sorts of bad habits, and rides worse and worse every day ; the horse too becomes daily more and more unfit for use. In proceeding according to the manner I have proposed, a man is rendered firm and easy upon the horse, and, as it were, of a piece with him ; both his own and the horse's sensibility is preserved, and each in a situation fit to receive and practise all lessons effectually : for if the man and horse do not both work without difficulty and constraint, the more they are exercised, the worse they become ; every thing they do, is void of all grace, and of all use.

Among the various methods, that are used, of placing people on horseback; few are directed by reason. Some insist, that scarce any pressure at all should be upon the backside; others would have the seat be almost upon the backbone: out of these two contrary, and equally ridiculous methods, an excellent one may be found by taking the medium. Before you let the man mount, teach him to know, and always to examine, if the curb be well placed, (I mean, when the horse has a bit in his mouth, which at first he should not; but only a snaffle, till the rider is firm in his seat, and the horse also somewhat taught;) and likewise if the nose-band be properly tight; the throat-band loofish, and the mouth-piece neither too high, nor too low in the horse's mouth,

mouth, but rightly put so as not to wrinkle the skin, nor to hang lax; the girths drawn moderately, but not too tight; and the crupper, and the breast-plate properly adjusted. A very good and careful hand may venture on a bit at first, and succeed with it full as well, as by beginning with a snaffle alone: but such a proceeding will require more care, more delicacy, and more time, than can be expected in a corps, whose numbers are so considerable, and where there are so few, if any good riders: on colts indeed, it is better in all schools whatsoever, to avoid any pressure on the bars just at first, which a curb, though ever so delicately used, must in some degree occasion. Whenever any bridles are used, they must be all the same, for though different

ferent mouths require different sorts of bits, it is absolutely necessary, that some general uniform sort should be used throughout a whole regiment. They should differ only in breadth according to the breadth of each horse's mouth. There needs no great variety of sizes for biting a whole regiment. The best I could ever pitch on after repeated trials, is one made after the following drawing. The weight of the whole is about one pound, eight ounces, and a quarter, of which the curb is about eight ounces, and a quarter. The mouth piece is fixed. All such as are not so, and move in the joint, have a bad effect. Light thin curbs are bad, and apt, if at all roughly used, (a thing very difficult to prevent at all times in some people's hands,) to cut, and damage
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the horse's mouth very much. This bridle is calculated for light troops. Heavier corps, who have larger horses, and of another kind, may have the branches an inch longer, and the whole bridle somewhat more substantial. When these things have been well looked to, let the man approach the horse gently near the shoulder; then taking the reins and an handful of the mane in his left hand, let him put his foot softly into the left stirrup, by pulling it towards him, least he touch the horse with his toe, (which might frighten him); then raising himself up, let him rest a moment on it with his body upright, but not stiff: and after that, passing his right leg clear over the saddle without rubbing against any thing, let him seat himself gently down. He must be cautious not to take
the

the reins too short, for fear of making the horse rear, run, or fall back, or throw up his head; but let him hold them of an equal length, neither tight nor slack, and with the little finger betwixt them. 'Tis fit that horses should be accustomed to stand still to be mounted, and not stir till the rider pleases. All soldiers should be instructed to mount and dismount equally well on both sides, which may be of very great use in times of hurry and confusion. Then place the man in his saddle, with his body rather back, and his head held up with ease, without stiffness; seated neither forwards, nor very backwards, with the breast pushed out a little, and the lower part of the body likewise a little forwards; the thighs and legs turned in without constraint, and
the

the feet in a straight line, neither turned in nor out : By this position, the natural weight of the thighs has a proper and sufficient pressure of itself, and the legs are in readiness to act, when called upon : they must hang down easy and naturally, and be so placed, as not to be wriggling about, touching and tickling the horse's sides, but always near them in case they should be wanted, as well as the heels.

The body must be carefully kept easy and firm, and without any rocking, when in motion ; which is a bad habit very easily contracted, especially in galloping. The left elbow must be gently leant against the body, a little forwards ; unless it be so rested, the hand cannot be steady, but will be always checking, and

and consequently have pernicious effects on the horse's mouth: and the hand ought to be of equal height with the elbow; if it were lower, it would constrain and confine the motion of the horse's shoulders, which must be free. I speak here of the position of the hand in general; for as the mouths of horses are different, the place of the hand also must occasionally differ: a leaning, low, heavy fore-hand requires a high hand; and a horse that pokes out his nose, a low one. The right hand arm must be placed in symmetry with the left; only let the right hand be a little forwarder or backwarder, higher or lower, as occasions may require, in order that both hands may be free: both arms must be a little bent at the elbow, to prevent stiffness.

A soldier's right hand should be kept unemployed in riding; it carries the sword, which is a sufficient business for it: In learning therefore to ride, the men should have a whip or fwitch in it, and hold it upwards, that they may thereby know how to carry their fwords properly, keeping it downwards only, when they mount or dismount, that the horse may not be frightened at the sight of it.

There remains one farther observation, that ought not to be omitted, about the hand, that it must be kept clear of the body; I mean, about two inches and half forwards from it, with the nails turned opposite to the belly, and the wrist a little rounded with ease; a position nor less graceful than ready for slacken.

slackening, tightening, and moving the reins from one side to the other, as may be found necessary.

A firm and well balanced position of the body on horseback is (as has already been said) of the utmost consequence; as it affects the horse in every motion, and is the best of helps: whereas on the contrary the want of it is the greatest detriment to him, and an impediment in all his actions. When the men are well placed, the more rough trotting they have without stirrups, the better; but with a strict care always, that their position be preserved very exactly. As for those unfeeling fellows, who continue sticking by their hands, in spite of all the teacher's attention to prevent it, nothing remains to be done but to make

them drop the reins quite on a safe-going horse, and to keep their hands in the same position, as if they held them. In all cases without exception, but more especially in this, great care must be taken to hinder their clinging with their legs : In short, no sticking by hands or legs is ever to be allowed of at any time. If the motion of the horse be too rough, slacken it, 'till the rider grows by degrees more firm : and when he is quite firm and easy on his horse in every kind of motion, stirrups may be given him ; but he must never leave off trotting often and working often without any.

The stirrups must be neither short nor long ; but of such a length that when the rider, being well placed, puts his feet into them, (about one third of
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the length of each foot from the point of it,) the points may be between two and three inches higher than the heels: Longer stirrups would make it very difficult for the rider to get his leg over the baggage, forage, cloak, &c. which are fastened on behind upon the saddle: and shorter would be bad in every respect, and answer no end at all. The length I mentioned above, is just the right one, and is to be taken in the following method: Make the rider place himself upon the saddle, even, upright and well, with his legs hanging down and the stirrups likewise: and when he is in this position, take up the stirrup, 'till the bottom of it comes just under the ankle-bone. The rider must not bear upon his stirrups, but only let the natural weight of his legs rest on them: For

if he bore upon them, he would be raised above and out of his saddle; which should never be, except in charging sword in hand, with the body inclined forwards at the very instant of attacking. Spurs may be given, as soon as the rider is grown familiar with stirrups, or even long before, if his legs are well placed.

Delicacy in the use of the hands, as well as in the use of the legs, may be given by the teacher to a certain degree; but 'tis nature alone that can bestow that great sensibility, without which neither one nor the other can be formed to any great perfection. A hand should be firm, but delicate: a horse's mouth should never be surpris'd by any sudden transition of it, either from slack to tight, or from tight to slack. Every thing in horse-

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manship.

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manship must be effected by degrees, but at the same time with spirit and resolution. That hand, which by giving and taking properly, gains its point with the least force, is the best; and the horse's mouth, under this same hand's directions, will also consequently be the best, supposing equal advantages in both from nature. This principle of gentleness should be observed upon all occasions in every branch of horsemanship. Sometimes the right hand may be necessary, upon some troublesome horses, to assist the left; but the seldomer this is done, the better; especially in a soldier, who has a sword to carry, and to make use of.

The snaffle must on all occasions be uppermost, that is to say, the reins of

it must be above those of the bridle, whether the snaffle or the bit be used separately, or whether they be both used together. When the rider knows enough, and the horse is sufficiently prepared and settled to begin any work towards suppling, one rein must be shortened according to the side worked to, (as is explained in its proper place;) but it must never be so much shortened, as to make the whole strength rest on that rein alone; for, not to mention that the work would be false and bad, one side of the horse's mouth would by that means be always deadened; whereas on the contrary, it should always be kept fresh by its own play, and by the help of the opposite rein's acting delicately in a somewhat smaller degree of tension; the joint effect of which produces

produces in a horse's mouth the proper, gentle, and easy degree of *appui* or bearing. Colts indeed, as well as men, at first must be taught the effect of the reins taken separately; for fear of confounding them in the beginning with mixed effects of them at once.

A coward and a madman make alike bad riders, and are both alike discovered and confounded by the superior sense of the creature they are mounted upon, who is equally spoilt by both, though in very different ways. The coward, by suffering the animal to have his own way, not only confirms him in his bad habits, but creates new ones in him: and the madman, by false and violent motions and corrections, drives the horse, through despair, into every

every bad and vicious trick, that rage can suggest.

It is very requisite in horsemanship, that the hand and legs should act in correspondence with each other in every thing ; the latter always subservient and assistant to the former. Upon circles, in walking, trotting, or galloping, (I mean, where nothing more is intended,) the outward leg is the only one to be used, and that only for a moment at a time, in order to set off the horse true, or put him right, if he be false ; and as soon as that is done, it must be taken away again immediately : but if the horse be lazy, or otherwise retains himself, (for he may retain himself through ticklishness and spirit, and other reasons also,) both legs must be used, and pressed

pressed to his sides at the same time together. The less the legs are used in general, the better. Very delicate good riders, with horses they have dressed themselves, will scarcely ever want their help; but that perfection in the feeling of either man, or horse, is not to be expected in the hurry which can not be avoided in a regimental school, where the numbers are so great. By the term outward is understood the side, which is more remote from the center; and by inward is meant the side next to the center. In reining back, the rider should be careful not to use his legs, unless the horse backeth on his shoulders, in which case they must be both applied gently at the same time, and correspond with the hand. If the horse refuse to back at all, the rider's
legs.

legs must be gently approached, till the horse lifts up a leg, as if to go forwards; at which time, when that leg is in the air, the rein of the same side with that leg, which is lifted up, will easily bring that same leg backwards, and accordingly oblige the horse to back: but if the horse offers to rear, the legs must be instantly removed away. The inward rein must be the tighter on circles, so that the horse may bend and look inwards; and the outward one crossed over a little towards it; and both held in the left hand, that soldiers may not have their right employed, which, as has before been observed, must be left free for other more necessary uses.

Let the man and horse begin on very slow motions, that they may have time
to

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to understand, and reflect on what is taught them, in their minds: and in proportion as the effects of the reins are better comprehended, and the manner of working becomes more familiar, the quickness of motion must be increased. Every rider must learn to feel, without the help of the eye, when a horse goes false, and remedy the fault accordingly: this is an intelligence, which nothing but practice, application and attention can give, in the beginning on slow motions. A horse may not only gallop false, but also trot and walk false. If a horse gallops false, that is to say, if going to the right, he leads with the left leg; or if going to the left, he leads with the right; or in case he is disunited, by which is meant, if he leads with the opposite leg behind to that which he leads
with

with before; stop him immediately, and put him off again properly: the method of effecting this, is by approaching your outward leg and putting your hand outwards, still keeping the inward rein the shorter, and the horse's head inwards, if possible; and if he should still resist, then bend and pull his head outwards also, but replace it again, bent properly inwards, the moment he goes off true. The help of the leg in this, and indeed all other cases, must not be made use of at all, till that of the hand alone has proved ineffectual. A horse is said to be disunited to the right, when going to the right, and consequently leading with the right leg before, he leads with the left behind; and is said to be disunited to the left, when going to the left, and consequently leading with

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with the left leg before, he leads with the right behind. A horse may at the same time be both false and disunited; in correcting both which faults, the same method must be used. He is both false and disunited to the right, when in going to the right he leads with the left leg before, and the right behind; notwithstanding that hinder leg be with propriety more forward under his belly, than the left, because the horse is working to the right: and he is false and disunited to the left, when in going to the left, he leads with the right leg before, and the left behind; notwithstanding, as above, that hinder leg be with propriety more forward under his belly than the right, because the horse is working to the left.

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In teaching men a right seat on horse-back, the greatest attention must be given to prevent stiffness, and sticking by force in any manner upon any occasion: stiffness disgraces every right work; and sticking serves only to throw a man (when displaced) a great distance from his horse by the spring he must go off with: whereas by a proper equilibrating position of the body, and by the natural weight only of the thighs, he cannot but be firm, and secure in his seat.

As the men become more firm, and the horses more supple, 'tis proper to make the circles less, but not too much so, for fear of throwing the horses forwards upon their shoulders.

No bits should be used, 'till the riders are firm, and the horses bend well to right and left ; and then too always with the greatest care and gentleness. Note always, that I have in view a military school, and consequently on account of its necessary hurry, and number of scholars, both men and horses are not the most exact and delicate ; the nature of it will not admit of their being so. The silly custom of using strong bits is in all good schools with reason laid aside, as it should be likewise in military riding. They serve to harden as much the hand of the rider, as the mouth of the horse ; both which becoming every day more and more insensible together, nothing can be expected but a most unfeeling callousness both in one and the other. Some

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horses,

horses, when first the bit is put into their mouths, if great care be not taken, will put their heads very low. With such horses, raise your right hand with the *bridoon* in it, and play at the same time with the bit in the left hand, giving and taking. A strong bit indeed will flatter an ignorant hand just at first; but it will never any other, nor even an ignorant one for any time together, for the horse's mouth will soon grow callous to it, and unfeeling, and the hand the same.

On circles, the rider must lean his body inwards; unless great attention be given to make him do it, he will be perpetually losing his seat outwards, every rapid or irregular motion the horse may make. 'Tis scarce possible for him to be displaced.

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displaced if he leans his body properly inwards.

Instructions both to man and horse in riding are of the greatest importance and consequence; as the success of actions in a great measure depend upon them. Squadrons are frequently broken and defeated through the ignorance of the riders or horses; but most commonly of both together. Many and various are the disasters, that arise from the horses not being properly prepared and suppled, and from the men not being taught firm seats; independent of their hands and the mouths of their horses. Were the men rightly instructed how to keep the mouths of their horses fresh and obedient, and thereby maintain a cadenced pace, (be

it ever so fast, or ever so slow,) ranks would of course be always dressed, and unshaken, and consequently always powerful. The stoutest and by nature the best of cavalry is often broken, and thereby rendered inferior far to much weaker and less respectable bodies than themselves, for want of being properly informed in the above-mentioned, and such-like particulars. This is a matter worthy of a serious inspection, consideration and amendment, the neglect of which has upon many occasions been very fatal. 'Tis to be hoped, that some person of sufficient authority and knowledge will contrive to introduce many alterations, that appear very necessary in the cavalry. I see, for instance, no reason, why the men should not wear *cuirasses*, as it is evident, that many lives would

would be saved by it, especially when they charge infantry ; but then the *cuirasses* must not be made like those, made use of at present, which seldom fit, are heavy and unwieldy, weighing down and fatiguing the wearer excessively. To what purpose are the men loaded with such monstrous heavy boots and firelock ? a lighter, yet full as strong, and much more serviceable boot might be easily contrived. A light carabine would suit them far better, if any fire-arm at all be thought necessary ; which, I confess, appears not so to me, as our dragoons are to all intents and purposes cavalry ; and should therefore be provided with a good sword, be well instructed in the management of it, and wholly depend upon it. Pistols indeed may sometimes be

necessary, but very seldom. A hat seems to me a silly and useless piece of dress in a soldier: it is continually falling off, especially in action; nor can it ever serve as a protection against blows, &c. or bad weather, which are circumstances of great consequence: whereas a cap has no inconveniences at all attending it, may be made very ornamental and of a martial appearance, and in such a manner, as to be a good fence against blows, rain, snow, and stormy winds, and also convenient to sleep in.

BREAKING HORSES, &c.

CHAP. III.

The method of suppling horses with men upon them, by the EPAULE en dedans, &c. with and without a longe, on circles and on strait lines.

WHEN a horse is well prepared and settled in all his motions, ('till when nothing more must be attempted,) and the rider firm, (which is also as absolutely necessary,) it will be proper then to proceed on towards a farther suppling and teaching of both. In regiments, especially those that are young, there are but very few, if any tolerable horsemen, which makes the greatest exactness and gentleness absolutely necessary in the instructing of

A METHOD OF

both: and more particularly so in this case, as horse and man are both ignorant, and must be both alike taught together; which is a difficulty, that does not exist in schools: for there a young rider is put upon a made, or at least a quiet horse; nor do any, but able riders, ever mount a raw one.

In setting out upon this new work, begin by bringing the horse's head a little more inwards than before, pulling the inward rein gently to you by degrees. When this is done, try to gain a little on the shoulders, by keeping the inward rein the shorter, as before, and the outward one crossed over towards the inward one. The intention of these operations is this; the inward rein serves to bring in the head, and
procures

procures the bend ; whilst the outward one, that is a little crossed, tends to make that bend perpendicular, and as it should be, that is to say, to reduce the nose and the forehead to be in a perpendicular line with each other : it also serves, if put forwards, as well as also crossed, to put the horse forwards, if found necessary, which is often requisite, many horses being apt in this, and other works, rather to lose their ground backwards, than otherwise, when they should rather advance : if the nose were drawn in towards the breast beyond the perpendicular, it would confine the motion of the shoulders, and have other bad effects. All other bends, besides what I have above specified, are false. The outward rein, being crossed, not in a forward sense, but rather a little back-

backwards, serves also, when necessary, to prevent the outward shoulder from getting too forwards, and makes it approach the inward one; which facilitates the inward leg's crossing over the outward one; which is the motion, that so admirably supple the shoulders. Care must be taken, that the inward leg pass over the outward one, without touching it; this inward leg's crossing over must be helped also by the inward rein, which you must cross towards and over the outward rein, every time the outward leg comes to the ground, in order to lift and help the inward leg over it: at any other time, but just when the outward leg comes to the ground, it would be wrong to cross the inward rein, or to attempt to lift up the inward leg by it; nay, it would

would be demanding an absolute impossibility, and lugging about the reins and horse to no purpose; because in this case, a very great part of the horse's weight resting then upon that leg, would render such an attempt, not only fruitless, but also prejudicial to the sensibility of the mouth, and probably oblige him to defend himself: and moreover, it would put the horse under a necessity of straddling before, and also of leading with the wrong leg, without being productive of any suppling motion whatsoever.

When the horse is thus far familiarly accustomed to what you have required of him, (but by no means before he is entirely so,) then proceed to effect by degrees the same crossing in his hinder legs.

legs. By bringing in the fore-legs more, you will of course engage the hinder ones in the same work: if they resist, the rider must bring both reins more inwards; and, if necessary, put back also, and approach his inward leg to the horse; and if the horse throws out his croup too far, the rider must bring both reins outwards, and if absolutely necessary, (but not otherwise,) he must also make use of his outward leg, in order to replace the horse properly; observing, that the croup should always be considerably behind the shoulders, which in all actions must go first; and the moment that the horse obeys, the rider must put his hand and leg again into their usual position.

Nothing is more ungraceful in itself,
more

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more detrimental to a man's seat, or more destructive of the sensibility of a horse's sides, than a continual wriggling unsettledness in a horseman's legs, which prevents the horse from ever going a moment together true, steady, or determined. 'Tis impossible upon the whole for a man to be too firm, settled, and gentle. A soft motion may be always enforced, if necessary, with ease; but an harsh one is irrecoverable, and its bad consequences very often almost irreparable.

A horse should never be turned, without first moving a step forwards; and when it is doing, the rider must not lift up his elbow, and displace himself; a motion only of the hand from one side to the other being sufficient for that purpose.

purpose. It must also be a constant rule never to suffer a horse to be stopped, mounted, or dismounted, but when he is well placed. The slower the motions are, when a man or horse is taught any thing, the better; for, as I have mentioned before, both the one and the other have time to reflect on the lesson, and comprehend it more perfectly; but the motion, though slow, must not be dull or with any hesitation.

At first, the figures worked upon must be great, and afterwards made less by degrees, according to the improvement which the man and horse make; and the cadenced pace also, which they work in, must be accordingly augmented. The changes from one side to the other, must be in a bold determined

mined trot, and at first quite straight forwards, without demanding any side motion on two *pistes*, which is very necessary to require afterwards, when the horse is sufficiently suppled. By two *pistes* is meant, when the fore parts, and hinder parts do not follow, but describe two different lines.

In the beginning, a *longe* is useful on circles, and also on straight lines, to help both the rider and the horse; but afterwards, when they are grown more intelligent, they should go alone. At the end of the lesson, rein back; and then put the horse, by a little at a time, forwards, by approaching both legs gently to his sides, (if necessary,) and playing with the bridle: if he rears, push him out immediately into a full trot.

Shaking

Shaking the *cavesson* on the horse's nose, and also putting one's self before him and rather near to him, will generally make him back, though he otherwise refuse to do it : and moreover a slight use and approaching of the rider's legs, will sometimes be necessary in backing, in order to prevent the horse from doing it too much upon his shoulders ; but the pressure of the legs ought to be very small, and taken quite away the moment that he puts himself enough upon his haunches. If the horse does not back upon a straight line properly, the rider must not be permitted to have recourse immediately to his leg, and so distort himself by it, (which is generally practised with the common sort of riding masters ;) but first try, if crossing over his hand and reins to which ever side
may

may be necessary, will not be alone sufficient; which most frequently it will: if not, then employ the leg.

After a horse is well prepared, and settled, and goes freely on in all his several paces, he ought to be in all his works kept, to a proper degree, upon his haunches, with his hinder legs well placed under him; whereby he will be always pleasant to himself, and his rider, will be light in hand, and ready to execute whatever may be demanded of him, with facility, vigour and quickness.

The common method, that is used, of forcing a horse sideways, is a most glaring absurdity, and very hurtful to the animal in its consequences: for instead of suppling him, it obliges him

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to

to stiffen and defend himself, and often makes a creature, that is naturally benevolent, a restive, frightened and vicious man-hater for ever. In general, 'tis a maxim as constantly to be remembered, as it is true, that it is more difficult to correct faults and bad habits, than to foresee and prevent them.

For horses, who have very long and high fore-hands, and who poke out their noses, a running snaffle is of excellent use; but for such, as bore and keep their heads low, a common one is preferable; though any horse's head indeed may be kept up also with a running one, by the rider's keeping his hands very high and forwards: but whenever either is used alone without a bridle upon horses that carry their heads

heads low and that bore, it must be sawed about from one side to the other.

As for working a horse in hand without a rider, I cannot but condemn and reject it: two people indeed in my lifetime, and amongst the many I have observed, but only two did I ever see, who have succeeded in it; the one, Sir *Sidney Meadows*, to a surprizing degree; and another gentleman abroad, Cavalier *Rossermini*, at *Pisa*.

This lesson of the *epaule en dedans*, I would only have taught to such people, as are likely to become useful in helping to teach men and to break horses; and the more of such, that can be found, the better: none others should ever be suffered upon any occasion to let their

horses look any way, besides the way they are going, which is a very rare thing now to be seen in most regiments. But all horses whatever, as likewise all men, who are designed for the teaching others, must go thoroughly and perfectly through this excellent lesson, under the directions of intelligent instructors, and often practise it too afterwards, (which indeed they ought to do every other lesson that is given them;) and when that is done, proceed to, and be finished by the lessons of the head and tail to the wall.

It would scarce be possible, (neither is it at all necessary,) to teach the many more difficult and refined parts of horsemanship, to the different kinds and dispositions, both of men and horses, which

which one meets with in a regiment; or to give the time and attention, requisite for it, to such numbers. The riding money that is allowed, if rightly disposed of, is full sufficient to procure and properly pay deserving and intelligent teachers; and moreover, a saddler and gunsmith, who are absolutely necessary to every troop. The best method would be to qualify as many quarter-masters as possible for riders; and under each, one rough rider, and one lance rough rider at least for every troop. One man should have more pay than the rest, and be an instructor to the whole regiment, going about from one quarter to another, and from troop to troop; and it should be part of his duty also to give lessons to the officers, (as likewise to break their horses;) who, I

am sorry to say it, are, (many of them at least,) when on horseback, a disgrace, not only to themselves, but to the animals they ride on.

This lesson, as indeed almost all others, ought to be practised on all figures, on circles, straight lines, and squares, &c. when on this last, which is an excellent lesson, (as also in every lesson and on all figures, where corners or angles are worked on,) care must be taken concerning the shoulders and croup, that, which ever of them is to enter the corner, it may go quite into it; and if both of them are to do it, that both may go in like manner perfectly in; and let that, which goes in the second of the two, follow exactly the road of the preceding one.

C H A P.

C H A P. IV.

*Of the head to the wall, and of the croup
to the wall.*

THIS lesson should be practised immediately after that of the *epaule en dedans*, in order to place the horse properly the way he goes, &c. The difference between the head to the wall, and the croup to the wall, consists in this: in the former, the fore-parts are more remote from the center, and go over more ground; in the latter, the hinder-parts are more remote from the center, and consequently go over more ground: in both, as likewise in all other lessons, the shoulders must go first. In riding-houses, the head to the wall

is the easier lesson of the two at first, the line to be worked upon being marked by the wall, not far from his head. All lessons ought to be frequently varied to prevent routine.

The motion of the legs in the lesson we are speaking of, to the right, is the same, as that of the *epaule en dedans* to the left, and so vice versâ; but the head is always bent and turned differently: in the *epaule en dedans*, the horse looks the contrary way, to that which he goes; in this he looks the way he is going.

In the beginning, very little bend must be required; too much at once would astonish the horse and make him defend himself: it is to be augmented by degrees. If the horse absolutely re-
fuses

fuses to obey, it is a sign, that either he or his rider has not been sufficiently prepared by previous lessons. It may happen, that weakness or a hurt in some part of the body, or sometimes temper, though seldom, (in the horse I mean,) may be the cause of the horse's defending himself: 'tis the rider's business to find out from whence the obstacle arises; and if he finds it to be from the first mentioned cause, the previous lessons must be resumed again for some time; if from the second, proper remedies must be applied; and if from the last cause, when all fair means that can be tried, have failed, proper corrections with coolness and judgment must be used.

In practising this lesson to the right,
bend

bend the horse to the right with the right rein; helping the left leg over the right (at the time when the right leg is just come to the ground,) with the left rein crossed towards the right, and keeping the right shoulder back with the right rein towards your body, in order to facilitate the left leg's crossing over the right; and so likewise vice versa to the left, each rein helping the other by their properly-mixed effects. In working to the right, the rider's left leg helps the hinder parts on to the right, and his right leg stops them, if they get too forwards; and so vice versa to the left; but neither ought to be used, 'till the hand, being employed, (as has been before explained,) in a proper manner, has failed; or finds, that a greater force is necessary to bring what

what is required, about, than it can effect alone; for the legs should not only be corresponding with, but also subservient to the hand; and all unnecessary aids, as well as all force, ought always to be avoided, as much as possible.

In the execution of all lessons, the equilibrium of the rider's body is of great use, ease and help to the horse: it ought always to go with and accompany every motion of the animal; when to the right, to the right; and when to the left, to the left; if it does not, it is a very great hindrance to the horse's going.

This lesson is perpetually of service; for example, in all openings and closings
of

of files : and though it be chiefly employed on straight lines, nevertheless it must be practised, advancing, retreating, turning, &c. as it may be of essential use almost in all cases whatever : it must be practised too in all paces, very fast as well as very slow, but of course gently at first ; and changes also from one hand to the other must frequently be made. 'Tis natural to imagine, that some horses, as well as some men, will be found more or less intelligent, active, and supple, than others ; and accordingly more or less is to be demanded and expected from them. This and all other lessons are to be performed with or without a *longe* ; as may be found needful.

Upon all horses in every lesson and
action,

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action, it must be observed, that there is no horse but has his own peculiar *appui* or degree of bearing, and also a sensibility of mouth, as likewise a rate of his own, which it is absolutely necessary for the rider to discover and make himself acquainted with. A bad rider always takes off at least the delicacy of both, if not absolutely destroys it, which is generally the case. The horse will inform his rider when he has got his proper bearing in the mouth, by playing pleasantly and steadily with his bit, and by the spray about his chaps. A delicate and good hand will not only always preserve a light *appui*, or bearing, in its sensibility, but also of a heavy one, whether naturally so or acquired, make a light one. The lighter this *appui* can be made, the better; provided

vided that the rider's hand corresponds with it; if it does not, the more the horse is properly prepared, so much the worse. Instances of this inconvenience of the best of *appui's*, when the rider is not equally taught with the horse, may be seen every day in some gentlemen, who try to get their horses bitted, as they call it, (which now and then, though very rarely, they get done to some degree,) without being suitably prepared themselves for riding them: the consequence of which is, that they ride in danger of breaking their necks; till at length after much hauling about, and by the joint insensibility and ignorance of themselves and their grooms, the poor animals gradually become mere senseless, unfeeling posts; and thereby grow, what they call, settled.

When

BREAKING HORSES, &c. 63

When the proper *appui* is found, and made of course as light as possible, it must not be kept dully fixed without any variation, but be played with; otherwise one equally continued tension of reins would render both the rider's hand, and the horse's mouth very dull. The slightest, and frequent giving, and taking, is therefore necessary to keep both perfect.

Whatever pace or degree of quickness you work in, (be it ever so fast, or ever so slow,) it must be cadenced; time is as necessary for an horseman as for a musician.

This lesson of the head and of the tail to the wall, must be taught every soldier: scarce any manœuvre can be well

well performed without it. In closing and opening of files, it is almost every moment wanted. Few regimental riding masters either practise it right, teach it right, or know it right, but act by force only, and make the horse look the wrong way. It is a great detriment to the service, that so few of the teachers are instructed on true, and useful principles of horsemanship.

CHAP. V.

The method of teaching horses to stand fire, noises, alarms, sights, &c.---of preventing their lying down in water---to stand quiet to be shot off from---to go over rough and bad ground---to leap hedges, gates, ditches, &c. standing and flying---to disregard dead horses--- to swim, &c.

IN order to make horses stand fire, the sound of drums and all sorts of different noises, you must use them to it by degrees in the stable at feeding-time; and instead of being frightened at it, they will soon come to like it, as a signal for eating.

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With regard to such horses, as are afraid of burning objects, begin by keeping them still at a certain distance from some lighted straw: caress the horse, and in proportion as his fright diminishes, approach gradually the burning-straw very gently, and increase the size of it. By this means he will very quickly be brought to be so familiar with it, as to walk undaunted even through it. The same method and gentleness must be observed also, in regard to glittering arms, colours, standards, &c.

As to horses that are apt to lie down in the water, if animating them, and attacking them vigorously should fail of the desired effect, (which seldom is the case,) then break a straw-bottle full of

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of water upon their heads, and let the water run into their ears, which is a thing they apprehend very much.

All troop-horses must be taught to stand quiet and still when they are shot off from, to stop the moment you present, and not to move after firing, 'till they are required to do it; this lesson ought especially to be observed in light-troops; in short, the horses must be taught to be so cool and undisturbed, as to suffer the rider to act upon him with the same freedom, as if he was on foot. Patience, coolness and temper are the only means requisite for accomplishing this end. Begin by walking the horse gently, then stop and keep him from stirring for some time, so as to accustom him by degrees not to have the least

idea of moving without orders: if he does, then back him; and when you stop him, and he is quite still, leave the reins quite loose.

To use a horse to fire-arms, first put a pistol or carabine in the manger with his feed; then use him to the sound of the lock and the pan; after which, when you are upon him, shew the piece to him, presenting it forwards, sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other: when he is thus far reconciled, proceed to flash in the pan; after which, put a small charge into the piece, and so continue augmenting it by degrees to the quantity which is commonly used: if he seems uneasy, walk him forwards a few steps slowly; and then stop, back and caress him. Horses are often also
disquieted

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disquieted and unsteady at the clash, and drawing, and returning of swords, all which they must be familiarized to by little and little, by frequency and gentleness.

In going over rough and bad ground, the men must keep their hands high, and their bodies back.

It is very expedient for all cavalry, in general, but particularly for light cavalry, that their horses should be very ready and expert in leaping over ditches, hedges, gates, &c. The leaps, of whatever sort they are, which the horses are brought to in the beginning, ought to be very small ones; the riders must keep their bodies back, raise their hands a little in order to help the fore-

parts of the horse up, and be very attentive to their equillibre. 'Tis best to begin at a low bar covered with furze, which pricking the horse's legs, if he does not raise himself sufficiently, prevents his contracting a sluggish and dangerous habit of touching, as he goes over, which any thing yielding and not pricking, would give him a custom of doing. Let the ditches you first bring horses to, be narrow; and in this, as in every thing else, let the increase be made by degrees. Accustom them to come up to every thing, which they are to leap over, and to stand coolly at it for some time; and then to raise themselves gently up in order to form to themselves an idea of the distance. When they leap well standing, then use them to walk gently up to the leap, and to go
over

BREAKING HORSES, &c. 71

over it without first halting at it; and after that practice is familiar to them, repeat the like in a gentle trot, and so by degrees faster and faster, 'till at length it is as familiar to them to leap flying on a full gallop, as any other way: all which is to be acquired with great facility by calm and soft means without any hurry.

As horses are naturally apt to be frightened at the sight and smell of dead horses, numbers of which are every moment met with on service, (especially at the latter end of the year, when the roads are bad, and the poor animals, too often treated and driven cruelly, go a great way from camp for forage,) it is advisable to habituate them to walk over, and leap over carcasses of dead

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horses;

horses ; and as they are particularly terrified at this sight, the greater gentleness ought consequently to be used in breaking them of their dread of it.

Horses should also be accustomed to swim, which often may be necessary upon service ; and if the men and horses both are not used to it, both may be frequently liable to perish in the water. A very small portion of strength is sufficient to guide a horse, any where indeed, but particularly in the water, where they must be permitted to have their heads, and be no ways constrained in any shape.

The heavy cavalry may possibly object to having their large horses taught all these several exercises : but though
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they are not, nor can indeed be expected to perform all, with the same activity and velocity, as light troops do, yet 'tis absolutely necessary, that they should be taught them all: for 'tis a melancholy consideration, that any trifling obstacle should prevent so useful and powerful a body from acting.

The unreasonable rage in England of cutting off all extremities from horses, is in all cases a very pernicious custom. It is particularly so in regard to a troop-horse's tail. It is almost incredible, how much they suffer at the picket for want of it: constantly fretting, and sweating, tormented, and stung off their meat, miserable, and helpless, whilst other horses, with their tails on, brush off all flies, are cool, and
at

at their ease, and mend daily, whilst the dock'd ones grow every hour more and more out of condition. On duty, and marches, the tails may be tied up without any trouble, and look very well. Even a common nag tail, especially if suffered to grow a little long, would protect the horse very much.

CHAP. VI.

The method of reining back—and of moving forwards immediately after—of piafing—of pillars, &c.

SOMETHING having already been said in the chapter of suppling, &c. upon the subject of reining back, there will not be occasion to dwell much upon it here, as the reader may have recourse to that chapter. Never finish your work by reining back with horses, that have any disposition towards retaining themselves; but always move them forwards and a little upon the haunches also after it, before you dismount, (unless they retain themselves very much indeed, in which case nothing at all must

must be demanded from the haunches.) This lesson of reining back, and piafing, is excellent to conclude with, and puts an horse well and properly on the haunches: It may be done, according as horses are more or less suppled, either going forwards, backing, or in the same place: if 'tis done well advancing, or at most, on the same spot, it is full sufficient for a soldier's horse: For to piafe in backing, is rather too much to be expected in the hurry, which cannot but attend such numbers both of men and horses, as must be taught together in regiments. This lesson must never be attempted at all, 'till horses are very well suppled, and somewhat accustomed to be put together; otherwise it will have very bad consequences, and create restiveness; infallibly so, if
not

BREAKING HORSES, &c. 77

not practised with the utmost exactness and delicacy; and principally with horses, that have the least tendency to retain, or to defend themselves. If they refuse to back, and stand motionless, the rider's legs must be approached with the greatest gentleness to the horse's sides; at the same time as the hand is acting on the reins to solícite the horse's backing. This seldom fails of procuring the desired effect, by raising one of the horse's fore legs, which being in the air, has no weight upon it, and is consequently very easily brought backwards by a small degree of tension in the reins. When this lesson is well performed, it is very noble, and useful, and has a pleasing air; it is an excellent one to begin teaching scholars with. In regiments, at their first being
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raised, when all horses are brought in young and raw, there can of course be no horses ready prepared in it for this purpose; but a little time and diligence remedies this inconvenience.

The lesson, we are speaking of, is particularly serviceable in the pillars, for placing scholars well at first. Very few regimental riding-houses have pillars, and I must say, that it is fortunate they have not; for, though when properly made use of with skill, they are one of the greatest and best discoveries in horsemanship; they must be allowed to be very dangerous and pernicious, when they are not under the direction of a very knowing person. Upon the whole, however highly I approve of pillars, I would on no account admit of
any,

any, unless constantly under the eye and attention of a very intelligent teacher; which is a thing so difficult to be found in regiments, that I think pillars are better banished from amongst them, and therefore shall say no more here of what I esteem nevertheless so much. As for the single pillar, it is a very useless and ridiculous thing; and being, as I hope and believe, universally laid aside, I think it not worth making further mention of here.

CHAP. VII.

The method of curing restivenesses, vices, defences, starting, &c.

BEFORE any mention is made of the different kinds of restivenesses, vices, and defences, &c. it is not amiss to observe, that a horse's being good or ill-natured, greatly depends on the temper of the person, that is put about him, especially at first; and consequently one cannot be too careful and watchful in this point.

Whenever a horse makes resistance, one ought, before a remedy or correction is thought of, to examine very minutely all the tackle about him, if
any

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any thing hurts or tickles him, whether he has any natural or accidental weakness, or in short any the least impediment in any part. For want of this precaution, and previous inspection, many fatal, and often irreparable disasters happen: the poor dumb animal is frequently accused falsely of being restive and vicious; is used ill without reason, and being forced into despair, is, in a manner, obliged to act accordingly, be his temper and inclination ever so well disposed. A horse that is vicious and also so weak, that there are no hopes of his growing stronger, is a most deplorable beast, and not worth any one's care or trouble: 'tis very seldom, (I was near saying, never) the case, that a horse is really, and by nature vicious; but if such

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be found, he will despise all caresses, and then chastisements become necessary.

Correction, according as you use it, throws a horse into more or less violent action, which, if he be weak, he cannot support : but a vicious strong horse is to be considered in a very different light, being able both to undergo and consequently to profit by all lessons ; and is, in every respect, far preferable to the best-natured weak one upon earth. Patience and science are never-failing means to reclaim such a horse : in whatsoever manner he defends himself, bring him back frequently with gentleness, (not however without having given him proper chastisement, if necessary,) to the lesson which he seems

most averſe to. Horſes are by degrees made obedient, through the hope of recompence and the fear of puniſhment: how to mix theſe two motives judiciously together, is a very difficult matter, not eaſy to be preſcribed; it requires much thought and practice; and not only a good head, but a good heart likewiſe. The cooleſt, and beſt natured rider, *cæteris paribus*, will always ſucceed beſt. By a dextrous uſe of the incitements abovementioned, you will gradually bring the horſe to temper and obedience; mere force and want of ſkill and of coolneſs, would only tend to confirm him in bad tricks. If he be impatient or choleric, never ſtrike him, unleſs he abſolutely refuſes to go forwards; which you muſt reſolutely oblige him to do, and which will be of

itself a correction, by preventing his having time to meditate, and put in execution any defence by retaining himself. Resistance in horses, you must consider, is sometimes a mark of strength and vigour, and proceeds from spirits, as well as sometimes from vice and weakness. Weakness frequently drives horses into viciousness, when any thing, wherein strength is necessary, is demanded from them; nay, it inevitably must: great care therefore should always be taken to distinguish from which of these two causes, that are evidently so different, the defence arises, before any remedy or punishment is thought of. It may sometimes be a bad sign, when horses do not at all defend themselves, and proceed from a sluggish disposition, a want of spirit, and of a proper

proper sensibility. Whenever one is so fortunate as to meet with a horse of just the right spirit, activity, delicacy of feeling, with strength, and good-nature, he cannot be cherished too much; for such a one is a rare and inestimable jewel, and if properly treated, will, in a manner, do every thing of himself. Horses are oftener spoilt by having too much done to them, and by attempts to dress them in too great an hurry, than by any other treatment.

If after a horse has been well suppled, and there are no impediments, either natural or accidental, if he still persists to defend himself, chastisements then become necessary: but whenever this is the case, they must not be frequent, but always firm, though always as little violent,

lent, as possible : for they are both dangerous and very prejudicial, when frequently or slightly played with ; and still more so, when used too violently.

'Tis impossible in general to be too circumspect in lessons of all kinds, in aids, chastisements or caresses ; for, as the great D. of Newcastle observes, if any man was in the form of a horse, he could not invent with more art, than some horses do, schemes to oppose what is required of him. Some have quicker parts, and more cunning, than others. Many will imperceptibly gain a little every day on their rider. Various in short are their dispositions, and capacities. It is the rider's business to find out their different qualities, and to make them sensible, how much he loves them,

them, and desires to be loved by them, but at the same time, that he does not fear them, and will be master.

Plunging is a very common defence among restive and vicious horses : if they do it in the same place, or backing, they must by the rider's legs and spurs firmly applied, be obliged to go forwards, and their heads kept up high. But if they do it flying forwards, keep them back, and ride them gently and very slow for a good while together. Of all bad tempers and qualities in horses, those, which are occasioned by harsh treatment and ignorant riders, which are very common, are the worst.

Rearing is a bad vice, and, in weak horses especially, a very dangerous one.

Whilst the horse is up, the rider must yield his hand, and when the horse is descending, he must vigorously determine him forwards: if this be done at any other time, but whilst the horse is coming down, it may add a spring to his rearing, and make him fall backwards. With a good hand on them, horses seldom persist in this vice; for they are themselves naturally much afraid of falling backwards. If this method, which I have mentioned, fails, (which it scarcely ever will,) you must make the horse kick up behind, by getting somebody on foot to strike him behind with a whip; or, if that will not effect it, by pricking him with a goad.

Starting often proceeds from a defect in the sight; which therefore must be
care-

carefully looked into. Whatever the horse is afraid of, bring him up to it gently ; if you caress him every step he advances, he will go quite up to it by degrees, and soon grow familiar with all sorts of objects. Nothing but great gentleness can correct this fault : for if you inflict punishment, the apprehension of chastisement becomes prevalent, and causes more starting, than the fear of the object. If you let him go by the object, without bringing him up to it, you increase the fault and confirm him in his fear : the consequence of which is, he takes his rider perhaps a quite contrary way from what he was going, becomes his master, and puts himself and the person upon him, every moment in great danger. I have so often heard people maintain, some,

some, that blows are necessary to cure this evil; and others, that horses should be suffered to have their own way in it; that I could not help saying a few words upon this subject, (though it speaks for itself,) to convince those, who, as my ingenious friend Mr. Bourgelat says, *argumentent de ces systemes deplorables.*

Many troop horses, and particularly old ones, often do not chuse to leave their companions. They should therefore be used early, and frequently to leave their ranks singly.

With such horses, as are to a very great degree fearful of any objects, make a quiet horse, by going before them, gradually entice them to approach nearer and

and nearer to the thing they are afraid of. If the horse, thus alarmed, be undisciplined and head-strong, he will probably run away with his rider; and if so, his head must be kept up high, and the snaffle sawed backwards and forwards from right to left, taking up and yielding the reins of it, as also the reins of the bit: but this latter must not be sawed backwards and forwards, like the snaffle, but only taken up, and yielded properly. No man ever yet did, or ever will stop a horse, or gain any one point over him, by main force, or by pulling a dead weight against him.

C H A P. VIII.

Several remarks and hints on shoeing, feeding, management of horses, &c. &c.

I Do not by any means intend to enter here largely on a system of shoeing. As feet differ, so should shoes accordingly. As it happens unfortunately for us, that the farriers belonging to the cavalry for want of proper education, due inspection, and encouragement, are void of all real skill, and knowledge in their profession, and have minds, in short, quite uncultivated, it is absolutely necessary to lay down only such rules, as are plain, general and invariable, and the strictest discipline must be enforced to make them all
3 observed

observed and followed most religiously. I do not however despair of seeing in time some intelligent farriers properly instructed; and when such are formed, and not till then, the number of them in regiments should be increased: It would be much better to have none at all, till such a reformation is brought about. One man cannot properly shoe more than forty horses; at present we have only one to a troop of fifty-five, besides bat-horses, and all others belonging to officers, sutlers, carriages, servants, &c. There should also be one forge-cart at least appropriated to each squadron, and a third for the latter-mentioned purposes: But they must not be like our present ones, which are made so heavy and with such low wheels, that they employ a great number of horses,
ruin

ruin most of them, and after all, seldom get up to their respective regiments in right time, even in good roads, and never in bad ones. And I may say, that 'tis lucky they do not, for upon experience one finds fewer horses lame, during the absence of farriers, than when they are present. They should be built upon two wheels only, and those very high: The cart must be covered, and have partitions in it for the forge, bellows, tools, char-coal, &c. All these things must be so contrived, as to be easily taken out of the cart, and worked on the ground. This sort of forge-cart never sticks, and is always able to keep up with the regiments on any marches: It requires but few horses, and spoils none. I have one for my own use, made by the Hanoverian train, which

is drawn easily by two horses. For regiments, the carts must be somewhat larger, and more substantial, and would need three horses. I doubt not, but an English workman would improve upon them, as to strength and lightness, as well as convenience; tho' the cart I have, is very well constructed, and answers well every necessary purpose.

Phyick and a butteris in well-informed hands would not be fatal; but in the manner we are now provided with farriers, they must be quite banished. Whoever at present lets his farrier, groom, or coachman, in consideration of his having swept dung out of the stables for a greater or less number of years, ever even mention any thing more than water-gruel, a clyster, or a little

little bleeding, and that too very seldom; or pretend to talk of the nature of feet, of the seat of lamenesses, sicknesses, or their cures, may be certain to find himself very shortly quite on foot, and fondly arms an absurd and inveterate enemy against his own interest. It is incredible what tricking knaves most stable-people are, and what daring attempts they will make to gain an ascendant over their masters, in order to have their own foolish projects complied with. In shoeing, for example, I have more than once known, that, for the sake of establishing their own ridiculous and pernicious system, when their masters have differed from it, they have, on purpose, lamed horses, and imputed the fault to the shoes, after having in vain tried, by every sort of in-

invention and lies, to discredit the use of them. How can the method of such people be commendable, whose arguments, as well as practice, are void of common sense? If your horse's foot be bad and brittle, they advise you to cover it with a very heavy shoe; the consequence of which proceeding is evident: For how should the foot, which before could scarce carry itself, be able afterwards to carry such an additional weight, which is stuck on moreover with a multitude of nails, the holes of which tear and weaken the hoof? If the foot is cut or hurt, one doctor says, load it, by way of cover, with all you can: His conceited opponent as wisely counsels you, to let the horse walk bare upon the sore. The only system all these simpletons seem to agree in, is to

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shoe

shoe in general with excessive heavy, and clumsy ill-shaped shoes and very many nails, to the total destruction of the foot. The cramps they annex, tend to destroy the bullet, and the shoes made in the shape of a walnut-shell, prevent the horse's walking upon the firm basis, which God has given him for that end, and thereby oblige him to stumble and fall. They totally pare away also, and lay bare the inside of the animal's foot with their detestable butteris, and afterwards put on very long shoes, whereby the foot is hindered from having any pressure at all upon the heels, which pressure otherwise might still perchance, notwithstanding their dreadful cutting, keep the heels properly open, and the foot in good order. The frog should never be cut out;

out ; but as it will sometimes become ragged, it must be cleaned every now and then, and the ragged pieces cut off with a knife. In one kind of foot indeed a considerable cutting away must be allowed of, but not of the frog ; I mean that very high feet must be cut down to a proper height ; because if they were not, the frog, tho' not cut, would still be so far above the ground, as not to have any bearing on it, whereby the great tendon must inevitably be damaged, and consequently the horse would go lame.

The weight of shoes must greatly, wholly indeed, depend on the quality and hardness of the iron. If the iron be very good, it will not bend ; and in this case, the shoes cannot possibly be

made too light: care however must be taken, that they be of a thickness so as not to bend: for bending would force out the nails, and ruin the hoof. That part of the shoe, which is next the horse's heel, must be narrower than any other, (as is seen in the draught,) that stones may be thereby prevented from getting under it, and sticking there; which otherwise would be the case; because the iron, when it advances inwardly beyond the bearing of the foot, forms a cavity, wherein stones being lodged would remain; and, by pressing against the foot, lame the horse. The part of the shoe, which the horse walks upon, should be quite flat, and the inside of it likewise; only just space enough being left next the foot, to put in a picker, (which ought to be used every time

time the horse comes into the stable, and often on marches,) and also to prevent the shoe's pressing upon the sole. Four nails on each side, hold better than a greater number, and keep the hoof in a far better state. The toe of the horse must be cut short, and nearly square, (the angles only just rounded off,) nor must any nails be driven there; this method prevents much stumbling, especially in descents, and serves by throwing nourishment to the heels, to strengthen them; on them the horse should in some measure walk, and the shoe be made of a proper length accordingly: by this means, narrow heels are prevented, and many other good effects produced. Many people drive a nail at the toe, but it is an absurd practice. Leaving room to drive one

there causes the foot to be of an improper length, and moreover that part of the hoof is naturally so brittle, that, even when it is kept well greased, the nail there seldom stays in, but tears out, and damages the hoof. That my directions for shoeing a proper length may be the more clear and intelligible, I have annexed a draught of a foot shod of a proper length standing on a plain surface, and with it a draught of the right kind of shoe.

In wet, spongy, and soft ground, where the foot sinks in, the pressure upon the heels is of course greater, than on hard ground; and so indeed it should be upon all accounts. The hinder feet must be treated in the same manner as the fore-ones; and the shoes the same;

same : except in hilly and slippery countries, they may not improperly be turned up a little behind : but turning up the fore-shoes is, I am convinced, of no service, and is certain ruin to the fore-legs, especially to the bullets. In descending hills, cramps are apt to throw horses down, by stopping the fore-legs, out of their proper basis and natural bearing, when the hinder ones are rapidly pressed ; which unavoidably must be the case, and consequently cannot but push the horse upon his nose. With them on a plain surface, a horse's foot is always thrown forwards on the toe, out of its proper bearing, which is very liable to make the horse stumble. The notion of their utility in going up hills is a false one. In ascending, the toe is the first part of the foot, which

bears on, and takes hold of the ground, whether the horse draws, or carries, and consequently the business is done, before the part, where the cramps are, comes to the ground. Ice nails are preferable to any thing to prevent slipping, as also to help horses up hill, the most forward ones taking hold of the ground early, considerably before the heels touch the ground: they must be so made, as to be, when driven in, scarce half inch above the shoe, and also have four sides ending at the top in a point. They are of great service to prevent slipping on all kinds of places, and by means of them an horse is not thrown out of his proper basis. They must be made of very good iron. If they are not, the heads of them will be perpetually breaking off, which will
not

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not happen, if the iron is good, and the nails are well made. By putting a fresh one every now and then on each side of the shoe, all wished-for ends are obtained, and no bad effects ensue. I know that I am fighting against a very strong, though a very unreasonable prejudice. Let this be tried only, and compared fairly on experience with others; and not immediately laid aside, if, in slippery weather, a horse thus shod should now and then slip. In some weather, and on some ground any horse any how shod may sometimes chance to fall. There is unluckily no absolute specifick against accidental falling in any shoes yet discovered, I have tried all methods, and find the above mentioned one the nearest to perfection: This sort of shoe and nails when
well

well made and fixed properly, being the firmest basis, and best hold I ever knew. I do not recommend ice nails at all times. In certain weather, (the greatest part of the year indeed,) the ground is in a condition, which does not require any. From the race horse to the cart horse, the same system of shoeing should be observed. The size, thickness and weight of them only should differ. The shoe of a race horse must of course be lighter than that of a saddle horse; that of a saddle horse lighter than that of a coach or bât horse; and these last more so than a cart, waggon, or artillery horse. At present all shoes in general are too *heavy*; if the iron is good, shoes need not be so thick, as they are now generally made. The utmost severity ought to be inflicted

dicted upon all those who clap shoes on hot : This unpardonable laziness of farriers in making feet thus fit shoes, instead of shoes fitting feet, dries up the hoofs, and utterly destroys them. The shoes in England at present, that are contrived with the most sense, are what they call plates for the race horses at Newmarket : I do not say, that they are perfect, but they are nearer the truth, than any others I know ; nor are they substantial enough for common use, tho' sufficiently so for the turf.

'Tis strange, that there should be so many ridiculous and absurd methods of shoeing ; when 'tis so manifest, that a small share of common sense with a moment's reflection upon the structure of a horse's foot, cannot but suggest the
proper

proper one. Frequent removals of shoes are detrimental and tear the foot, but sometimes they are very necessary; this is an inconvenience, which half-shoes are liable to, (though excellent in several other respects;) for the end of the shoe, being very short, is apt to work soon into the foot, and consequently must then be moved. Soldiers should always carry two spare shoes with them, on the upper end and outward side of each holster pipe, with some nails. Some should carry a hammer, others a pair of pinchers, and all be taught how to fix on a shoe. The weight of these things properly divided is trifling. The use of them would be soon found on service, particularly with light troops, and on detachments, where farriers cannot be present. Major Erskine of Elliott's
has

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has placed these things, and all other necessaries, better than I ever saw them elsewhere by far.

The common practice of stuffing feet, that are heated, with dung, I can in no wise approve of; for the dung contains a rotting quality in it: clay and hog's lard, well mixed together, is much better for the purpose.

The methods of treating and keeping horses in other respects, are as various, and for the generality as inconsistent with reason, as those of shoeing are; but a little consideration would (in most common cases at least,) direct people right in both. One pampers his cattle, with a view of strengthening them; and afterwards, by way of correction, he
pours

pours down drugs into them without thought or measure. Another lets no air at all into his stable; from whence his horses inevitably catch cold, when they stir out of it; and are rotted, if they abide in it, by bad corrupted air. A third, equally wise, leaves his stable open, and his cattle exposed to the wind and weather at all times, whether his horses or the weather be hot or cold; and frequently too even in wind-draughts, whilst they are in a sweat. All these different notions and practices are alike attended with destruction to horses; as also are the many extravagances, that prevail in the same contradictory extremes, with regard to coverings. But in answer to all these foolish systems, reason plainly suggests to us, that proper wholesome food, a well-

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well-tempered circulation of sweet air, moderate and constant exercise, with due care, and suitable cloathing, as weather and occasions may require, will never fail to preserve horses sound and in health.

After working, and at night of course, as also in lamenesses, and sicknesses, 'tis good for horses to stand on litter; it promotes staling, &c. At other times I do not advise it; for the constant use of it makes the feet tender, and horses delicate.

It is of the greatest consequence for horses to be kept clean, regularly fed and as regularly exercised: but whoever chuses to ride in the way of ease and pleasure, without any fatigue on horse-back;

back ; or in short, does not like to carry his horse instead of his horse's carrying him, must not suffer his horse to be exercised by a groom, standing up on his stirrups, holding himself on by means of the reins, and thereby hanging his whole dead weight on the horse's mouth, to the entire destruction of all that is good, safe or pleasant about the animal.

A great quantity of hay, especially that which is taken from water-meadows or any low and swampy ground, being of a foggy nature, is not good for horses : it may serve indeed for cart-horses, and for such troop-horses, (few of such, thank God, now remain,) who are meant for no other use, but to roll on slowly with a fat fellow, full of beer, upon them ; who, to the shame of the service,

service, with the badge of soldiership on his back, is a more stupid and lazy animal, than what he is mounted upon, which to its misfortune is rendered so by the sluggishness of its rider. But troops, who are really destined for service, and to be useful, must be active: the very training them to what is absolutely necessary, requires good wind; more or less, according to the different intents and purposes they may be designed for.

Upon service, the allowance of all kinds of forage, whenever there is a possibility of supplying it, is sufficient; but sometimes it cannot be procured for a long while together: besides which misfortune, it is very often most shamefully and carelessly wasted; not to mention, that commissaries in general seldom

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furnish

furnish out the due quantity or quality of any thing, which they have agreed and engaged for, and are most amply paid for.

At home, our horses are crammed and ruined with over-much hay, and the allowance of corn is scanty. Cut straw and a little hay too, sometimes, mixed with it, is excellent food : to a quartern of corn, put the same quantity of cut straw, and now and then, if a horse is very lean, but not otherwise, about half an one of hay, and let them all be well mingled together, and as chopped straw is generally exceedingly dry, sprinkle a little water upon the feed in the manger. This proportion of chopped straw may seem great, but considering the lightness of it, it is not such
in

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in reality. The quantity of horses food must be proportioned to their size, work, make, appetite, &c. yet, in regiments it is necessary to fix, and follow some kind of general rule in respect to it. Four of these feeds as above mentioned, with ten or twelve pounds of hay per day, will be sufficient for most horses on almost all occasions. The allowance at home cannot afford so much, neither indeed is so much necessary, when troops are not on service. The exercise horses take at home, though it should perhaps be greater, and more constant, than it is in some corps, does not require it.

All sorts of grains are foggy feeding, and though it plumps up the body, it does not give a wholesome and sound

fat: Bran too is not solid food, and is only now and then to be allowed, when horses are heated, to refresh, and open them, if the case requires it.

Whenever hay is put and left in the racks, as for instance at night, it should be well-cleaned and freed from dust, and not given in too large quantities: In this respect, 'tis, like water, much more beneficial, when supplied often, and in small quantities at a time. 'Tis a common, but a great error, and very detrimental to horses, to gallop them immediately after drinking; they ought to be moved only gently. In the middle of the day, good and clean straw is a very wholesome, and excellent food, if it is ricked up with the hay, (half and half in weight) it mixes well with

with it, partakes of it's flavour, and does exceedingly well. When it is mixed, as is commonly the custom only just at the time of feeding, horses pick out, and eat all the hay, without touching the straw. I have long practised this method, and found it answer, but regiments cannot have proper conveniences to do it. Upon the whole, a lean horse, and a fat horse, are both disagreeable sights; a rough coat is no good symptom; but the means of making it fine, should not be by dint of heat and covering, but by dressing and due care.

It is a duty very requisite, and incumbent upon officers, to be constant, exact and frequent in going up and down the lines in camp, as through the stables

in quarters; as it is likewise advisable for every one to visit often his own stables, to inspect and superintend the management of the horses. No trimming with scissars should be permitted; but whatever rough hairs appear, should be taken off by dressing. As great inconveniences often happen from horses getting loose, I have affixed a draught and description of the most effectual halter I know of; and indeed the only one I have found upon trial, that is capable of preventing it.

A common complaint amongst troop-horses is broken-wind, which is chiefly occasioned by stuffing them with too much hay; and often by hurrying them too violently after drinking, and after their coming at first from grass. There is



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is no sovereign remedy, I believe, for broken-wind; but the greatest palliative I know of, is this following receipt: Take a crucible, and in it put a bed of rasped lead and then a bed of sulphur, alternately, 'till the crucible is full; and then setting fire to the whole, let it continue burning, till the whole is consumed into a dross: after which, pound the dross into powder, sift it fine, and give it to the horse fasting every morning, from two to three ounces, in his corn wetted: or if the horse has a husky cough, mix it up with treacle, &c. into balls. This medicine causes no impediment or inconvenience, and may be given for ever so long a time together. Greasy and swelled legs being a very common distemper in troop-horses, I shall set down the following

very good receipt for the cure of it. Take salt petre two ounces, and two drachms ; the same quantity of venice turpentine ; one ounce, and four drachms of flower of brimstone ; diapente, six drachms ; mix the whole together with a sufficient quantity of liquorish powder, make it into balls, and give it to the horse fasting in the morning ; he must not eat for two hours after taking it, nor drink for five, or six hours, and then the water must be warmish ; he must be kept warm, and have gentle walking exercise the next day ; this dose must be repeated twice, or more, as required, with an interval of three days between each dose. Rosin drink is also very good for swelled legs. Sometimes a clumsy fellow by negligence and aukwardness, which is oftener

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oftener the case than any other accident, is the cause of his horse's falling and breaking his knees. If any thing will make the hair come again, and probably of a right colour, burnt cork finely sifted, mixed with oil, and made into an ointment will do it: it must be laid on very often, and the part must be kept free from dirt. A blanket for each man carried under the saddle is of vast use to the horse's back, as well as to the man on many occasions. Every man should have one.

Every troop ought to have a cutting-box belonging to it, and one man constantly employed all day at it in chopping hay, straw, &c. Forage of all kinds should be cut and mixed together; and always given to the horses, (when in camp,)

camp,) in nose-bags, or in deep canvas troughs, which are better, by which means nothing is blown away, or lost. 'Tis not to be imagined, what order horses are preserved in by adhering to this method. The Germans wisely carry, upon all occasions whatever, every man a double feed of chopped straw and corn mixed together, which is never touched, but by express order of the commanding officer, and then too in such quantities, and at what time, he thinks fit to direct. It frequently happens upon long marches, and even sometimes when the troops stand still, that forage cannot be procured for some days together; then this German practice, which I have just mentioned, in a short time gives strong and apparent proofs of its utility, by the preservation of their horses' good plight.

None

None but those, who have been eye-witnesses to the fact, can tell, what harm a deficiency of forage, only for two days, does horses, especially in marches by night, and in bad weather: some are often disabled by it for the whole campaign, and some for ever after. This method of the Germans, is the means of saving the lives of many horses, and helps in cases of exigency, to keep up vigour in most of them.

In the beginning of September green forage is no longer plenty on the ground. It would therefore be prudent from that time to make every man carry twenty pounds of spun hay, and afterwards later in the year a larger quantity. From about the twentieth of September, for example, or thereabouts, he might carry thirty pounds
for

for the rest of the campaign, and besides this hay, eight pounds of oats mixed with four pounds of cut straw, none of these to be ever touched, but by order of the commanding officer, and then in such quantity as he thinks fit. This method would often prevent troops from being in great want, and richly repay the horse for carrying the forage. As hay spoils by being kept twisted up for a long time together, it should be unspun, and given to the horses at the end of three days, and a fresh truss spun, and made up. If the campaign should last through the whole winter, this forage must be carried, till there is green forage enough on the ground the ensuing year, which may not be till late in poor uncultivated countries, or those worn out by war. Whenever horses
come

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come out of quarters, where they have met with abundance, corn must be taken from them by degrees, if possible, and not all at once, be the season, and the country they take the field in ever so good. For a considerable time horses will do very well in the field without corn, if, on coming out of quarters, they are not weaned from it too suddenly, and the weather, and green forage is tolerably good; but late in the year, when the weather grows bad, and horses are obliged to go a great way for forage, some corn is absolutely necessary.

In fetching forage, especially from any distance, the trusses should be very well fixed and made, and no men suffered to ride on them, the weight of both is immense. I have seen trusses of
three

three hundred weight, which without a man on it, is a very heavy load. Laziness and custom has made some people imagine that a truss of forage cannot be carried without a man on it, but it is not so by any means, if the trusses are well made, and properly fixed. These and many other precautions and care, in matters, seemingly perhaps little and trifling, ought to be deemed, (as they really are,) equally as necessary for preserving a regiment in the condition it ought to be for its own credit, and the publick service, as a just distribution of rewards and punishments. These and such-like attentions should no more be dispensed with, than that an officer of each troop should constantly visit every horse of that troop daily in their quarters, cantonments, or
lines ;

lines ; and especially too, and without delay, after fatiguing marches, and foul weather : but if this care be intrusted to a quarter-master, who is already overloaded, not only with his own, but often with the whole business of the officers, beyond a possibility of executing half of it ; and if he likewise, (being indeed in some measure compelled to it,) shuffle off his burden, all he can, upon the serjeants and corporals : what else can be expected, but that the same spirit of idleness and disregard will diffuse itself throughout the whole corps ? Hence no duty would be completely and essentially performed ; none in the stable with respect to the horses, accoutrements, &c. no regularity in cooking, no care to see the men well dried after wet service ; in short, no serious

serious attention to numberless other necessary articles; whereby a regiment would most infamously fall to ruin, and be very soon rendered unfit for service.

THE END.



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